

Upcoming Testing for the Power Plant Trainee Program (29 APR, 04 MAY, 09 MAY, or 13 MAY 2011)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District will be providing the OPM Apprenticeship Test for upcoming Power Plant Trainee positions. There are a total of five Power Plant Trainee (TC-5407-B) positions for which we will be recruiting; one at the Bonneville Project, two at John Day Project, one at The Dalles Lock and Dam, and one at the Willamette Valley Project. The testing will take place on April 29, May 4, May 9, or May 13, 2011.

In order to be considered for these positions, applicants must have taken and passed the OPM Apprenticeship Test within the last four years (2007-2011) and may submit a copy of their official rating to the CPAC upon request. Scores from other federal agencies may be accepted.

Please note that the candidate must first have taken and passed the OPM Apprenticeship Test in order to be qualified to apply on the announcement. The announcements are anticipated to open in June 2011. This will provide ample time for applicants to receive their test scores which must be clearly identified on their resume. Testing is open to all US citizens.

If you are interested, you may select one of the following dates to take this test: 29 APR, 04 MAY, 09 MAY, or 13 MAY 2011. Limited testing seats are available, so please reserve a testing seat early. Reservation requests must be sent to: Sheri.heck@us.army.mil. To ensure that your request is expedited, please make certain that the below information is included in your email request:

NAME:

Home Telephone No:

Work Telephone No:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Requested Test Date:

Once a seat has been requested, an additional confirmation email with specific information will be provided to the candidate. If you do not receive a confirmation email within two work days of submitting your request, please contact Sheri Heck at (503) 808-4558.

Study Guide: [Arithmetic Operations](#)

Sample Test: http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/hr/docs/Power_Plant_Trainee.pdf

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Our apprenticeship applies to the mechanical, electrical and operator crafts. It is a self-paced program that is based on a correspondence-course type of curriculum augmented by other methods of instruction. The program is divided into eight phases. Each phase lasts about four months for co-operative students (also known as CoOps who are enrolled in local community colleges). Program phases last about six months for non-CoOp students, containing specific hydropower systems research and academic courses that must be completed during each phase. On-the-job training (OJT) comprises more than 75 percent of the program's training plan.

There are individual progressive tests and semi-formal OJT evaluations on a regular basis, as well as a comprehensive exam containing written, practical and oral segments administered at the end of each phase. Training includes temporary assignments to other power generating facilities within the District. These training assignments provide apprentices the opportunity to increase their trade skills and broaden their understanding of hydropower operations and maintenance. Other forms of instruction have been integrated into the program, including: computer based training, hands-on lab training, partnering with community colleges and contract instruction.

Upon graduation, apprentices will be placed in journeyman positions at one of the District's six hydropower facilities.

Defining the Eight Phases

Phase One: The focus of the first phase is to expose the trainees to all aspects of operations and maintenance of hydroelectric, power generating facilities. *Principles of Hydropower* and *Hydroelectric Power Plant Operations* are two courses that are used to provide an in-depth overview of how systems in the hydroelectric power generation industry work. During this time, nearly all of the safety training requirements are completed. Also, during this phase, apprentices work in all shops on a rotation for the first year, not only for indoctrination, but primarily to better understand the interaction between work centers.

Phase Two: The focus is general, which provides a broad vision of the power-generation field. The *Principles of Hydropower* course is completed and work on the basic correspondence course portion of the program begins. In this phase, trainees prepare and present a briefing on selected hydropower systems.

Phases Three to Five: Apprentices focus on their selected craft: electrical, mechanical or operations. Correspondence courses and some off-site training may be arranged. Study time (either academic study or systems research) occurs one day per week. For the remainder of the program apprentices work three days a week in their assigned shops. Temporary assignments to other hydropower facilities begin in Phase Five.

Phases Six to Eight: Apprentices complete the correspondence course and assignments in their selected crafts, studying one day per week. Independent work is assigned. More off-site and specialized training is possible, if needed.

Work Schedule

Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Once in Phase Three, operators work a 12-hour rotating shift: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Application Process

We are currently accepting applications for five Power Plant Trainee positions located within the Portland District. These announcements will open on the 6th of June and will close on the 17th of June 2011. You will be able to find these announcements at:

ARMY CIVILIAN SERVICE (<http://www.armycivilianservice.com>) and **USAJOBS** (www.usajobs.gov). For federal civilians and veterans, refer to these websites to apply (search for "Power Plant Trainee").

The federal government offers a number of exceptional benefits to its employees. Pay is only part of the compensation you will earn working for the federal government. We offer a broad array of benefits programs and family friendly flexibilities to meet the needs of you and your family. Here are some

| Grade | Hourly Pay | | Year |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| B | 22.44 | | 1 |
| C | 27.97 | | 2 |
| E | 31.77 | | 3 |
| G | 35.55 | | 4 |
| I | 37.98 | | |
| Years of Service | Hours/Year of Vacation | Hours per Pay Period | Days per Year* |
| 0-2 Years | 104 | 4 | 10.4 |
| 3-14 Years | 156 | 6 | 15.6 |
| 15+ Years | 208 | 8 | 20.8 |

Maximum

Accumulation of 240 hours per year

***Based on a 10-hour work schedule, four days a week**

highlights of pay and benefits associated with the Hydropower Apprenticeship Program.

Pay /Vacation Leave



Sick Leave: 104 hours per year or four hours per pay period. No maximum accumulation.

Military Leave: 15 calendar days per year with pay if a member of the Reserves or National Guard.

Life Insurance: Insured according to annual salary and up to five times your base pay. Premiums depend on age and type of coverage selected.

Health Insurance: Several group health care plans are available. Government pays part of the premium. Dental coverage and vision exams are available through separate plans. Long-term health care insurance is also available.

FSAFEDS: FSAFEDS provides employees the option to allocate a portion of his/her pre-taxed salary to a flexible spending account to pay medical and dependent care expenses ~ Health Care Flexible Spending Arrangements (HCFSA), and/or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Arrangements (DCFSA).

Retirement: Federal employees contribute to the Federal Employees Retirement System and Social Security. Employees can contribute the maximum allowable by law of their pre-taxed salary into the Thrift Savings Plan (a tax deferred, 401-K investment plan). The government matches up to five percent of funds contributed by employee.

Commuting to Work: Government will reimburse employees for costs associated with using mass transit (e.g. an approved van pool or other mode of public transportation). Reimbursement not to exceed a predetermined amount (based on mileage, frequency of trips and number of riders).

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Portland District
Hydropower Apprenticeship Program
Questions? Call 503.808.4558
<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/hr/home.asp>